

NEBRASKA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION



Interpretation Number: 09-01

Date: 08-09

Pamphlet Number: NFPA 101 (2000)
NFPA 13, (1999)

Section(s): (101) 4.6, 18.3.5, 19.3.5
(13) 1-2, 5-5

Comments:

Applies to all new and existing health care occupancies that are fire sprinkler protected.

Applies to wardrobes and cabinets where clothes or personal effects can be hung on hangers.

Question: Is fire sprinkler protection required inside wardrobe units within a patient room of a health care occupancy?

Response: No.

NFPA 13 requires protection throughout the building. Certain exceptions allow the deletion of such protection.

Free-standing wardrobes that are not permanently affixed to the wall are considered furniture and do not require fire sprinkler coverage within the unit.

Fire sprinkler protection within permanently affixed wardrobes is not required when all of the following criteria are met:

- The wardrobe is of a size and contains such a small fuel load that a fully developed fire is unlikely to occur. The largest dimension cannot exceed 24 inches and the maximum interior area of the wardrobe cannot exceed 30 cubic feet.
- Quick response or residential type fire sprinklers within the room are positioned within 6 feet of the wardrobe and will wet the front and top of the wardrobe when activated.
- No privacy curtain or other obstruction shall be placed between the wardrobe and a fire sprinkler head protecting the wardrobe.

It is not required to provide provisions such as holes in the top of the wardrobe or louvers in the door to meet these requirements.

Signature:

Date: 09/09/09

Title: John E. Falgione, State of Nebraska Fire Marshal